

Message Text

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46L

ORIGIN MC-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

INR-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 L-03 /057 R

DRAFTED BY PM/MC:JDHATAWAY:RMH

APPROVED BY PM/MC:WBROBINSON

AF/W - R. A. MCQUIRE

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R 240253Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI; NI, GH

SUBJECT: COLT M-16S

REF: LAGOS 1815

1. MUNITIONS CONTROL FILES INDICATE THAT COLT INDUSTRIES RECEIVED ON NOVEMBER 4, 1975, TEMPORARY LICENSE TO EXPORT 7 M-16S, AMMUNITION AND GRENADE LAUNCHER TO NIGERIA FOR DEMONSTRATION TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. COLT HAS NOT UTILIZED LICENSE AND STATED FEBRUARY 20 THERE LITTLE PROSPECT OF SALES TO NIGERIA. APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY LICENSE IS INDICATION OF DEPARTMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER, APPLICATION FOR EXPORT OF RIFLES SHOULD SALES EVENTUATE, BUT DOES NOT COMMIT DEPARTMENT TO AUTHORIZE EXPORT.

2. COLT REAFFIRMED TO DEPARTMENT FEB. 20 THAT SARKIS SOGHANALIAN IS COLT AGENT ALTHOUGH COLT IS AWARE OF PUBLICITY HIS ACTIVITIES IN ARMS FIELD HAVE RECEIVED.

3. ON JULY 18, 1975, DEPARTMENT ISSUED TO COLT LICENSE
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TO EXPORT 5,000 AR-15 (M-16) FULLY AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND

5,000,000 ROUNDS TO CALIBER .223 AMMUNITION TO MINISTRY
OF DEFENSE, BURMA CAMP, ACCRA. LICENSE WAS APPROVED WITH

PROVISO THAT COLT WOULD FURNISH DEPARTMENT WITH ASSURANCE
AGAINST TRANSFER TO THIRD COUNTRY BY GOVERNMENT OF GHANA.
ASSURANCE HAS NOT YET BEEN SUPPLIED AND NO SHIPMENT HAS
BEEN MADE. DEPARTMENT HAS NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT GHANA
IS PURCHASING RIFLES BY BARTER ARRANGEMENT ENGINEERED
BY SAGHANALIAN.

4. EMBASSY ACCRA IS REQUESTED TO VERIFY PURCHASE OF
5,000 RIFLES AND AMMO BY MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. EMBASSY
MAY ALSO WISH TO AFFIRM THAT GOG IS AWARE THAT WEAPONS
MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO THRID COUNTRY WITHOUT USG
APPROVAL. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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